



CITY OF SEATTLE

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

On February 9, 2006 the Energy and Technology Committee recommended approval of nine proposed amendments to the update of the City of Seattle's Critical Areas Ordinance, Chapter 25.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and discussed but did not act on another amendment. These amendments add or modify revisions to Chapter 25.09 proposed by the Department of Planning and Development and the Mayor as part of the Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance update. The proposed amendments would constitute a change to development regulations for the purposes of the Growth Management Act (R.C.W. Chapter 36.70A). Generally, the proposed amendments:

- Widen buffers around creeks and streams from 50' where anadromous fish are present to 75' and widen buffers around creeks and streams where anadromous fish are not present from 35' to 50'; (Approval Recommended)
- Require that mitigation in shoreline habitat buffers be provided as close to the shoreline as possible; (Approval Recommended)
- Clarify circumstances in which the Director can approve use of pesticides and fertilizers in a riparian buffer, shoreline habitat or shoreline buffer, or wetland habitat or wetland buffer; (Approval Recommended)
- Clarify regulations related to development of water-dependent and water-related uses in the shoreline buffer; (Approval Recommended)
- Provide a definition of ecological function; (Approval Recommended)
- Prohibit development of new residential uses and platting for new single-family development sites within 25' of the shoreline; (Approval Recommended)
- Provide additional provisions to encourage daylighting pipes; (Discussed but no Action)
- Clarifying provisions related to geologic hazard areas governed by the proposed update; (Approval Recommended)
- Make additions to the recitals to clarify Council's intent; and (Approval Recommended)
- Make other technical and housekeeping clarifications. (Approval Recommended)

Based upon public comments and Council deliberations, the amendment or amendments ultimately adopted, if any, may be different than the amendments summarized above. The amendments adopted may be combined in a new Council Bill.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments may be submitted at any time until the final Council vote on the legislation. However, the Council prefers to receive written comments by 12:00 p.m. on March 1, 2006 to allow for review by the full Council during its consideration of the proposal. Full Council will discuss and vote on the Energy and Technology Committee recommendation no earlier than March 6, 2006. Please send comments to jean.godden@seattle.gov or

**Committee Chair Jean Godden
Seattle City Council
Energy and Environmental Policy Committee
P.O. Box 34025
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INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Questions regarding the proposed amendments may be directed to Tom Van Bronkhorst of the Legislative Department at (206) 684-8758 or via email at: tom.vanbronkhorst@seattle.gov.

Copies of the proposed Environmentally Critical Areas Update ordinance are available from the DPD Public Resource Center, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000 in the Key Tower, 684-8467. The Public Resource Center is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. The proposed Environmentally Critical Areas update Ordinance is also available at: http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Environmentally_Critical_Areas_Update/COS_004292.asp